

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A KNIGHT OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. By the Rev. Dr. F. H. ROE, 12mo, pp. 532. Dool, Mond, & Co.

The peculiar feature of this novel, which indicates the success of the author in its composition, is the union of a rigid didactic purpose with the construction of an animated and attractive narrative. Mr. Roe does not write with a view to artistic literary effect. Much less does he seek the applause of the multitude by the exhibition of sensational and exciting scenes. His aim is of a higher and purer character, but as accomplishment demands a power of self-expression, the exercise of a chaotic and tempestuous imagination, and a single eye to the moral worth of his endeavor, which rarely fail to the lot of a popular novelist, and which call forth a smother respect than the more brilliant endowments of self-seekers and unscrupulous geniuses. In the present work, he has a finer and more elevated ground than even in his previous novels. Without being expressly a religious story, it deals largely in religious motives and influences. It even approaches the borders of theology, in its occasional discussions of religious theories and principles, its exposition of the nature of divine grace upon the human heart, and its views of the evidence and tests of Christian character; but the author is never dogmatic, never speculative, never controversial; he stands upon the broadest plane of Christian experience; pointing out the path of religious peace; and the power of divine truth to transform the tormented victim of sin into a model of elevations, honor, of knightly devotion to a good cause, and of the purity and lovelessness of Christian sanctity. The mystery of regeneration is set forth by a striking, but not a romantic or impossible example. The hero is placed in situations often repulsive, often terrible, sometimes grotesque, in which, if he occasionally loses the patience of the reader, he does not fail to ret in his sympathy, and to awaken a lively joy at the redemption of the prodigal, and his return to a noble and beautiful life. In the delineation of character, which enters into the development of the plot, Mr. Roe shows his greatest strength. The mother of Bracken, the hero of the story,—Mrs. Arnott, his wise, religious counsellor and beneficentress,—her husband, the wealthy, imperious, hard-hearted man of business,—Dr. Marks, the mild and simple village pastor,—and to crown all, Old Growther, a standing piece of original cynicism, eccentricity, and frosty and forbidding kindness of heart, are portrayed in lively colors and with excellent effect. This measures the narrative from the monotony and commonplace which can scarcely be avoided in ethical fictions, and is the secret of its success. Mr. Roe, while a layman by profession, has little faith in a tame and infelicitous pulpit, and whether in sermon or story, does not object to season his teachings with a spicie of humor, and to combine religious earnestness with playful fancy.

THE CAMPAIGN OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL JOHN BURGOYNE AND THE EXPEDITION OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL GADDEY ST. LEEON. By WILLIAM LEWIS, 12mo, pp. 461. Job Munsell, Albany.

In this volume Colonel Stone has given a very thorough account of the expedition which terminated so disastrously for the British and so gloriously for the American cause, on the field of Saratoga, on the 17th of October, 1777. The publication of the work is well-timed, not only as an adequate supply to a demand, but as the revival of one of the most important episodes of the Revolution for a generation which has fallen, perhaps inevitably, into the habit of neglecting our early history. In the exhaustless and anxious interest which accompanies the making of new history, many of the most interesting details of the first National struggle have lost their distinctness in the memories of the people, and the series of centennial celebrations which will continue to be held for five years longer, require that the old narratives should again and more fully told. That of the campaign of Burgoyne has fallen into competent hands. The recent publication, in Germany, of a history of the German Auxiliary Forces in the War of Independence, and the Memoirs of General Riedesel, have furnished Colonel Stone with important new material, of which he has made excellent use. His narrative is not only exact, but picturesque; for, in addition to the usual military authorities, the testimony of two accomplished ladies (Baroness Riedesel and Lady Harriet Ackland) adds to it a very fresh and vivacious element. A map of the battlefield, portraits of the principal personages on both sides, an index, and copious and highly interesting appendices, make the volume as complete a monograph as these anniversary years have yet called forth.

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